Amendments to and listing of the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2-5, 7, 8, 14, 25, and 28,-35, without prejudice, and amend claims 1, 9, 11-13, and 24-27 as set forth in the following listing of the claims, which replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition in the form of an aqueous solution or suspension for nasal or ocular delivery of a therapeutic agent across a mucosal surface ~~having a viscosity of 150cp or less at 25°C and~~ into systemic circulation, the composition comprising (i) chitosan, a salt thereof or a derivative thereof that has been formed by bonding of acyl or alkyl groups with the hydroxyl groups of the chitosan or a salt of [[a]]the derivative ~~thereof~~, (ii) a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt, (iii) a plasticizer, and (iv) a therapeutic agent intended for systemic action.

2.-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the plasticizer is triethyl citrate.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the chitosan, the salt or the derivative ~~thereof~~ or the salt of [[a]]the derivative ~~thereof~~ has a molecular weight of 4000 Dalton or greater.

8. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 7, wherein the chitosan, the salt or the derivative thereof or the salt of [[a]]the derivative ~~thereof~~, has a molecular weight of from 50,000 to 300,000 Dalton.

9. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 1, comprising chitosan base or ~~a chitosan derivative that has been formed by bonding of acyl or alkyl groups with the hydroxyl groups of the chitosan or~~ a nitrate, phosphate, sulphate, citrate, hydrochloride, glutamate, lactate or acetate salt of chitosan.

10. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the chitosan has a degree of deacetylation of 40 % or greater.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim [[12]]10, wherein the degree of deacetylation is from 70 to 90 %.

12. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 1, comprising from 0.25 to 3.0 % w/v of the chitosan, [[a]]the salt or [[a]]the derivative ~~thereof~~ or [[a]]the salt of [[a]]the derivative ~~thereof~~ expressed as chitosan base.

13. (Currently Amended) The composition according to claim 12 comprising from 0.45 to 1.5 % w/v of the chitosan, [[a]]the salt or [[a]]the derivative ~~thereof~~ or [[a]]the salt of [[a]]the derivative ~~thereof~~ expressed as chitosan base.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyol-phosphate salt is β-glycerophosphate disodium.

16. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt is present in an amount of from 0.25 to 3.0 % w/v.

17. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 16, wherein the polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt is present in an amount of from 0.75 to 2.0 % w/v.

18. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, comprising from 0.05 to 5.0 % w/v of the plasticizer.

19. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 18, comprising from 0.2 to 1.0 % w/v of the plasticizer.

20. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, additionally comprising ascorbic acid.

21. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 20, comprising from 0.01 to 0.2 % w/v ascorbic acid.

22. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the therapeutic agent is a polar drug, a polypeptide, a gene or a gene construct.

23. (Previously Presented) The composition according to claim 22, wherein the therapeutic agent is insulin, calcitonin, leuprolide, luteinising hormone releasing hormone, growth hormone or a growth hormone releasing factor, naratriptan, sumatriptan, zolmitriptan, rizatriptan, eletriptan, frovatriptan, alnitidan, avitriptan, almotriptan, apomorphine, sildenafil, alprostadil, diamorphine, hydromorphone, buprenorphine, fentanyl, oxycodone, codeine, morphine or morphine-6-glucuronide.

24. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A drug delivery device suitable for delivery of a composition via one or more of the nasal ~~vaginal, rectal, oral mucosal, ophthalmic~~ or ocular routes or a dose cartridge for use with such a device loaded with a composition as defined in claim 1.

25. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of the composition as defined in claim 1, which process comprises mixing a solution comprising chitosan or a salt or derivative thereof or a salt of ~~a~~ the derivative ~~thereof~~ with a solution comprising a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt.

26. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~The use of the combination of~~ A process for transporting a systemically acting therapeutic agent across a nasal or ocular mucosal surface of an animal, the process comprising administering to the animal's nasal or ocular mucosal surface a composition in the form of an aqueous solution or suspension comprising chitosan or a salt thereof or derivative thereof that has been formed by bonding of acyl or alkyl groups with the hydroxyl groups of the chitosan or ~~the~~ a salt of ~~a~~ the derivative ~~thereof~~, a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt~~, and~~ a plasticizer ~~in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the transport of a~~ and the systemically-acting therapeutic agent ~~across a mucosal surface in an animal~~.

27. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~The use of the combination of~~ A process for nasal or ocular delivery of a systemically acting therapeutic agent to an animal, the process comprising nasally or ocularly delivering to the animal a composition in the form of an aqueous solution or suspension comprising chitosan or a salt thereof or derivative thereof that has been formed by bonding of acyl or alkyl groups with the hydroxyl groups of the chitosan or

~~the~~ a salt of ~~a~~ the derivative ~~thereof~~, a polyol-phosphate or sugar-phosphate salt, ~~and~~ a plasticizer ~~in the manufacture of a medicament for nasal vaginal, rectal, oral mucosal, ophthalmic or ocular delivery~~ and the systemically acting therapeutic agent.

28.-35. (Canceled)